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SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

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MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of March, 1986)

The number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters during March declined by fifty-five crews from the February total -- the largest decrease since the Society began the survey in May of 1974. The land crew total decreased by forty-four and the marine crew total decreased by eleven crews. The last time the total number of crews fell to 240 was ten years ago (March, 1976).

The March total (240) represents a decrease of 19% from last month, a 49% decrease from March, 1985, a 46% decrease from March, 1984, a 63% decrease from March, 1983, a 61% decrease from March, 1982, a 50% decrease from March, 1981, and a decrease of 34% from the same month in 1980.

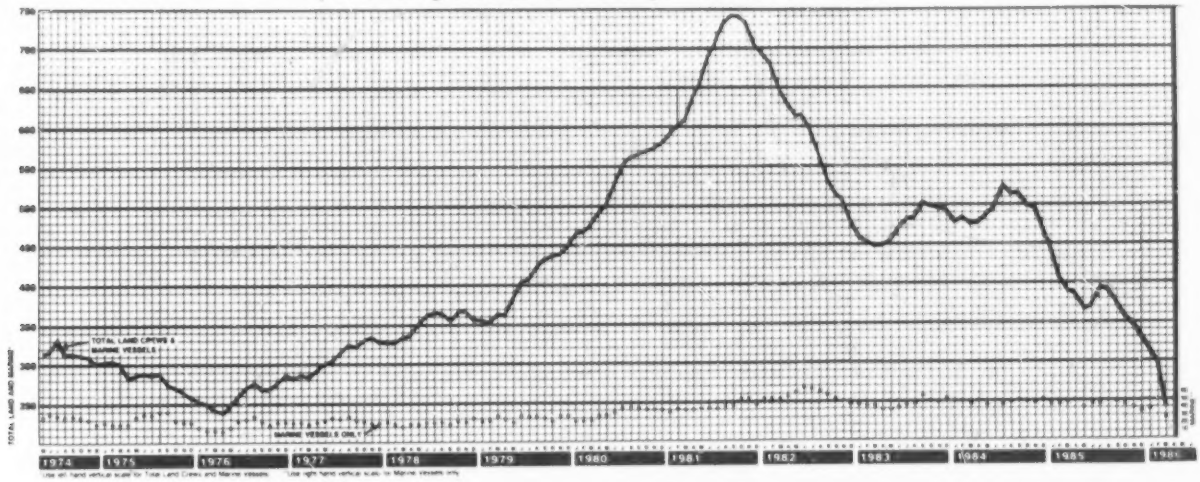
During March, eight contractors were operating seventeen of the 185 land crews and four of the twenty-three vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	Mar.'85	Mar.'84	Mar.'83	Mar.'82	Mar.'81	Mar.'80
	240	295	471	447	649	610	477	364

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Mar. 1985	Mar. 1984	Mar. 1983	Mar. 1982	Mar. 1981	Mar. 1980	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Mar. 1985	Mar. 1984	Mar. 1983	Mar. 1982	Mar. 1981	Mar. 1980
57 Contr's:	185	226	306	386	360	554	529	409	23	34	40	39	38	45	33	23
8 Oil Co's:	27	30	34	38	42	43	41	39	5	5	7	8	7	7	7	6
1 Gov't.:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	212	256	340	424	402	597	570	448	28	39	48	47	45	52	40	29

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



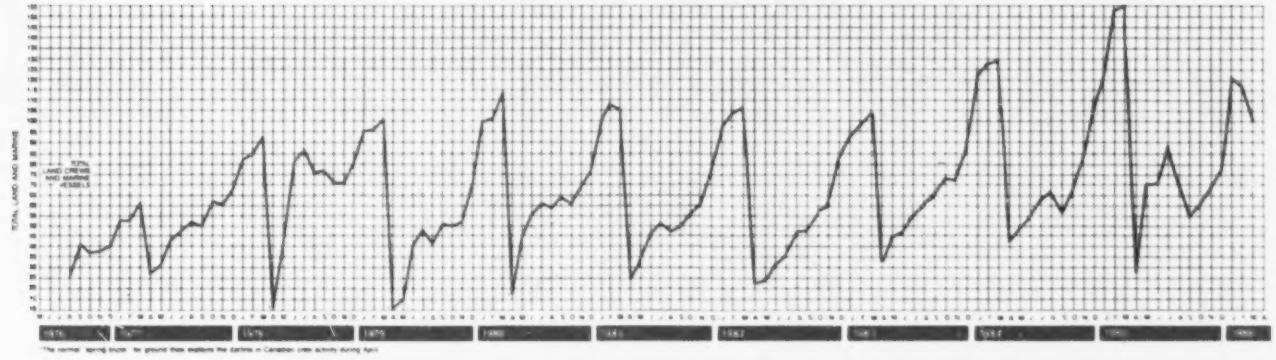
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

March, 1986 (February 1986 figures in parentheses)

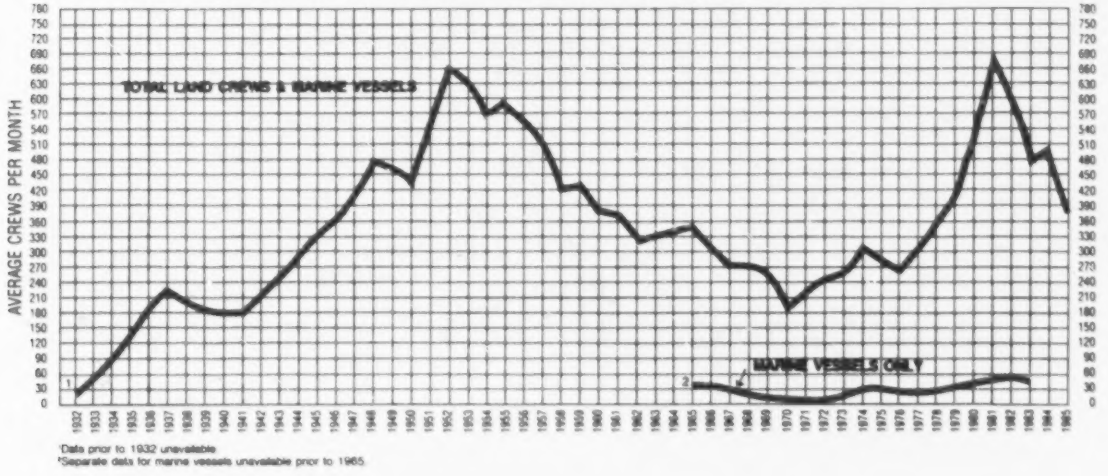
	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
29 Contractors:	96 (113)	0 (1)
2 Oil Companies:	4 (3)	0 (0)
Totals:	100 (116)	0 (1)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed in part by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(Seismic crews searching for oil & gas.)



[1]Data prior to 1932 unavailable
[2]Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1965